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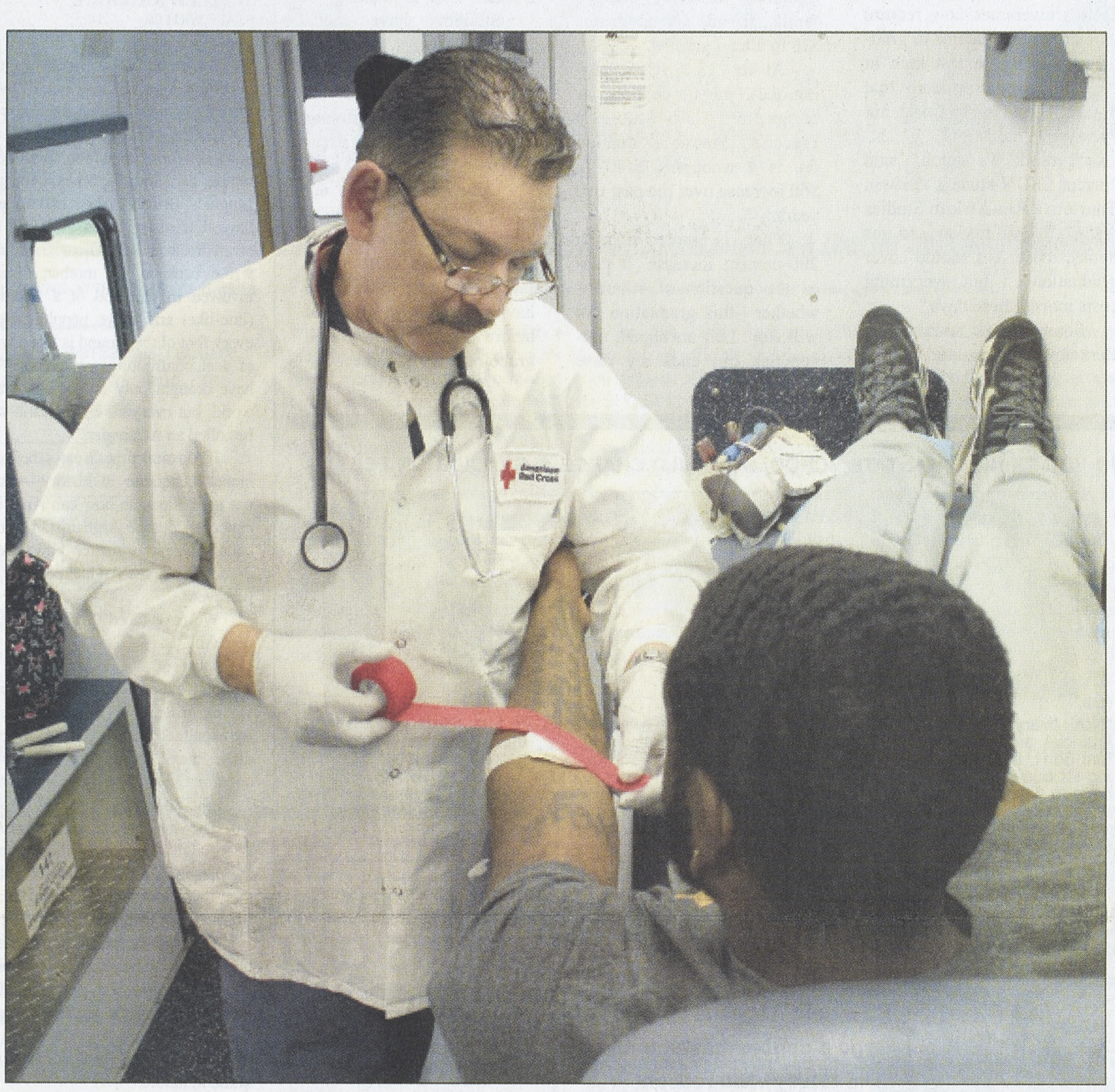
lavalleystar.com | May 22, 2013 | Volume 78 Issue 8

MONARCHS PREPARE FOR UPCOMING FOOTBALL SEASON

SEE PAGE 4



BLOOD DRIVE



JAHSAUDI PERKINS | VALLEY STAR

GIVING IS GOOD - Roberto Menendez steriolizing a Valley College student's arm before drawing blood at last weeks blood drive at Valley College. The Amerivan Red Cross's "blood mobile" stationed itself infront of the Allied Heath and Center.

GOV. BROWN RELEASES NEW BUDGET PLAN TO INCREASE COURSES AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Gov. Jerry Brown's new plan proposes an increase in the general fund contribution.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

Governor Jerry Brown released his Revised Budget Summary on May 14, where he wants to reallocate money for schools. The revision proposes spending about $1.3 billion more on schools than he outlined in the budget proposal in January.

As part of a multi-year budget increase, $16.9 million has been allocated specifically to increase the number of courses available to community college students. Brown prioritizes reinvesting in the California Community Colleges, UC and CSU systems in attempt to improve quality, performance and cost effectiveness of the schools. The outcome is to have higher education be affordable and student success thrive.

"It is a relief to know that we are no longer in a cutting mode and that state-imposed downsizing seems to have ended," said Valley College President Sue Carleo. "We will continue to work toward managing our allocation to maximize our course offerings."

In the revised blueprint, Brown includes a freeze on UC and CSU resident tuition to decrease student debt and increase students' ability to attend.

"That is extremely important to me," said business major Christina Rivera. "I am transferring to Cal State Long Beach in the fall and am already worried about being able to pay tuition, costs of books and living."

The plan proposes an increase in the general fund contribution of $1.3 billion dollars from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for all three college systems; a jump from $24.5 billion to $25.8 billion.

The Governor's plan is to also improve student success in education. Priorities include improving graduation rates, increasing the number of transfer students from community colleges to the large universities by 10 percent and improving the number of degrees attained while keeping focus on low-income students.

"I think it's fair. I think it's just," Brown said to the Los Angeles Times recently. "I think it has great moral force."

Lawmakers are required to pass the budget by June 15. It must then to be signed into law by Brown by the end of June.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES BROADEN PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Early enrollment requirements now include students with set academic tracks.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

New and continuing students with a fully developed academic plan will receive priority registration beginning fall 2014.

Under changes recently approved by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, first-time enrollees must complete assessment, orientation and have an academic plan developed with a counselor to qualify. Continuing students must be in good academic standing, declare an area of study and not have exceeded the 100-unit cap in place.

"The policy is designed to ensure that classes are available for students seeking job training, an associate degree or transfer," said Sonia Ortiz-Mercado, the system Chancellor's Office dean of matriculation and early assessment. "And to reward students who are making academic progress toward their educational goals."

Anyone on academic probation for two consecutive semesters or close to the 100-unit mark is at risk of falling to the bottom of the priority list, according to LACCD Vice Chancellor for Educational Programs, Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye.

Existing groups eligible for priority enrollment will not change under the new policy. These include foster youth, veterans, active-service military, disabled persons, intercollegiate athletes and disadvantaged students who participate in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services.

Anyone who has not declared a clear educational objective on the record will continue to face problems enrolling in highly sought-after classes. When registration policy is made, focus is on students who have a strict time limit for completing certificates, degrees or transfers said Angie Baca-Ross, a counselor at Valley College. EOPS and CalWorks participants and athletes have set time requirements to complete their studies.

She said for people who are not pursuing a degree, the counseling department may be able to work with them to create a goal such as receiving a certificate that will enable them to register early.

"So it'll be challenging to them because they need to have a goal established," Baca-Ross said. "It will affect their status, it will be harder for them. It doesn't mean they can't get a class … they just need to show up and try to add." She encourages all students to meet with a counselor to examine their opportunities.

Students who fail to meet their established educational goals and lose priority enrollment due to extenuating circumstances such as illness or loss of income will be able to appeal the decision once the changes have taken effect.

The Board of Governor's announcement came in conjunction with Governor Jerry Brown's plan to tie community colleges' funding in part to the amount of students who complete a degree or successfully transfer.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: FINALS SCHEDUAL

DAY CLASSES

Day and Date Of Final Exam	MONDAY JUNE 3			TUESDAY MAY 28		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm	6:30 - 8:30am	9:30 - 11:30am	12:30 - 2:30pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30 – 7:55 MW 6:45 – 7:55 MTWTh	9:40 – 10:50 MTWTh 9:40 – 11:05 MW 9:40 – 10:55 MWF 9:40 – 12:10 MW	1:00 – 2:10 MTWTh 1:00 – 2:25 MW 1:00 – 2:15 MWTh 1:00 – 3:30 MW	6:30 – 7:55 TTh	9:40 – 11:05 TTh 9:40 – 10:55 TThF 9:40 – 12:10 TTh	1:00 – 2:25 TTh 1:00 – 2:15 TThF 1:00 – 3:30 TTh

Day and Date Of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY MAY 29			THURSDAY MAY 30		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00 - 3:00pm	8:00 - 10:00am	10:30am - 12:30pm	1:00 - 3:00pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15 – 9:25 MTWTh 8:00 – 9:25 MW 8:00 – 9:15 MWF 8:00 – 10:30 MW	11:20 – 12:30 MTWTh 11:20 – 12:45 MW 11:20 – 12:35 MWF 11:20 – 1:50 MW	2:20 – 3:30 MTWTh 2:40 – 4:05 MW	8:00 – 9:25 TTh 8:00 – 9:15 TThF 8:00 – 10:30 TTh	11:20 – 12:45 TTh 11:20 – 12:35 TThF 11:20 – 1:50 TTh	1:45 – 3:10 TTh 1:45 – 3:00 TThF

Final Examination Schedule

Tuesday, May 28 to Monday, June 3

- Except for classes of less-than-semester length, the LAST DAY OF REGULAR INSTRUCTION IS SUNDAY, MAY 26.
- Classes meeting less-than-semester length will have the final exams at the last meeting of the class.
- FINAL EXAMINATIONS MUST BE HELD ON THE DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED AND IN REGULARLY ASSIGNED CLASSROOMS.
- FRIDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on May 31.
- SATURDAY CLASSES will have their final during the regular class meeting on June 1.

To use the schedule below:
- Locate the day and hour of your class on the grid.
- Days of the week are abbreviated **M T W Th F** for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

EVENING CLASSES

CLASSES MEETING AT 3 PM OR BEFORE 5 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT 5 PM OR BEFORE 6 PM			CLASSES MEETING AT OR AFTER 6 PM		
Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time	Class Meets	Exam Date	Time
M	M June 3	4 – 6pm	M	M June 3	4 – 6pm	M	M June 3	7 – 9pm
T	T May 28	4 – 6pm	T	T May 28	4 – 6pm	T	T May 28	7 – 9pm
W	W May 29	4 – 6pm	W	W May 29	4 – 6pm	W	W May 29	7 – 9pm
Th	Th May 30	4 – 6pm	Th	Th May 30	4 – 6pm	Th	Th May 30	7 – 9pm
MW	M June 3	4 – 6pm	MW	W May 29	4 – 6pm	MW	M June 3	7 – 9pm
TTh	T May 28	4 – 6pm	TTh	Th May 30	4 – 6pm	TTh	T May 28	7 – 9pm

In the event of a conflict, speak with your instructor to schedule an alternate time to take the final.

LOWER BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMIT WILL REDUCE DEATHS

The proposed decrease from 0.08 to 0.05 has proven successful in other countries.

CLAIRE BRISLEY
STAFF WRITER

Billboards along the streets of Studio City show a man blowing into a breathalyzer outside of his car, with words, "You just blew 10,000 dollars."

With alcohol-related accidents making up for one-third of road deaths in the United States, the standard of determining what is considered drunken driving needs to be stricter.

The National Transportation Safety Board recently recommended that all 50 states lower the blood-alcohol content limit to 0.05 from 0.08, which law enforcement currently uses. Amending the limit will save between 500 to 800 lives annually, according to the safety board.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) states that someone is killed in a drunk-driving crash every 53 minutes and someone is injured every 90 seconds due to this easily preventable crime.

The deadly combination of drinking and driving is a national epidemic. Someone given the privilege to operate a vehicle should be responsible enough to be on the roads without having his or her judgment and reaction time impaired.

According to BBC News, "High alcohol consumption can disrupt the brain's judgment of distances and heights."

Progress has been made to reduce drunk driving, but it is still responsible for more than 10,000 deaths each year. Stricter policies, law enforcement and education about the subject are necessary to keep drunk drivers off the road.

In the early 1980s, many states required a blood alcohol level of 0.15 to prosecute anyone for intoxicated driving, but over the next 24 years, MADD and other groups' vigorous work helped lower it to 0.08 standard in 2004 that still stands today. The number of alcohol-related highway fatalities dropped from 20,000 in 1980 to 9,878 in 2011.

> **"Progress has been made to reduce drunk driving, but it is still responsible for more than 10,000 deaths each year."**

If the thought of killing someone—or one's self—is not enough to end drunken driving, then the consequences of a possible DUI should be. Penalties include possible jail time, license suspension, community service and a mandatory attendance of alcohol and drug education classes. After bail, fines, fees and insurance, DUI's can cost up to $10,000.

More than 100 countries have 0.05-percent standards or stricter. After that standard was adopted in Europe, drunk-driving deaths fell by a half within a decade.

Drinking and driving needs to be eliminated or at least significantly decreased to protect our streets and society. Stricter limitations may make people think twice before getting behind the wheel after having few drinks.

CAL STATE SCHOOLS ATTEMPT TO MILK STUDENT DRY WITH "EXIT FEE" FOR GRADUATION

The disconcerting trend among Cal State campuses to charge its students a large graduation fee must be stopped—or at least capped.

ALTON PITRE
STAFF WRITER

Paying textbook and tuition fees for college is typical, but having to pay a graduation fee is despicable.

Fifteen of the 23 California State Universities now require an exit fee for students to graduate. It is like a last kick in the butt reminding students that nothing is free in this world, not even your graduation.

"I think it's dumb," said current CSUN student Godwin Thurton, a Pan-African Studies major. "I pay tuition and for books, those fees should cover graduation … but everything costs money these days."

Some schools such as UC Berkeley require students to pay a $10 fee to receive their diplomas. Berkeley charges family, friends and graduates $10 to attend graduation.

At the 15 CSUs charging fees, the graduation tax ranges from $35 to $100. San Francisco State's graduation fee is a whopping $100—a $60 increase over the past two years.

That is more than a 200-percent increase. It raises the question of where—whether—this graduation tax will stop. Left uncapped, universities can endlessly raise this fee, preventing countless students from graduating.

Students have faced tuition increases, impacted classes and the prospect of working at a fast-food restaurant after they earn their decreasingly useful four-year degrees.

Universities should not try to balance their budgets by imposing a graduation tax. Students should not be faced with the burden of having to walk to an ATM before taking the stage and grabbing their diplomas.

VALLEY VIEW | DO YOU THINK CAL-STATE SCHOOLS SHOULD CHARGE A GRADUATION FEE?



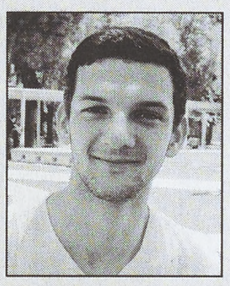
"I think it depends if I can afford it. If I get financial aid, then it s OK."

- MONIRUL ISLAM
COMPUTER SCIENCES



"Not everyone could get financial aid and the ones that don t, they re busy paying for books, and now they have to pay a fee for graduation?"

- JOSEPHINE KOCHOO
COMMUNICATIONS



"I think its absurd to say that if you want to graduate, you have to pay a fee on top of everything else."

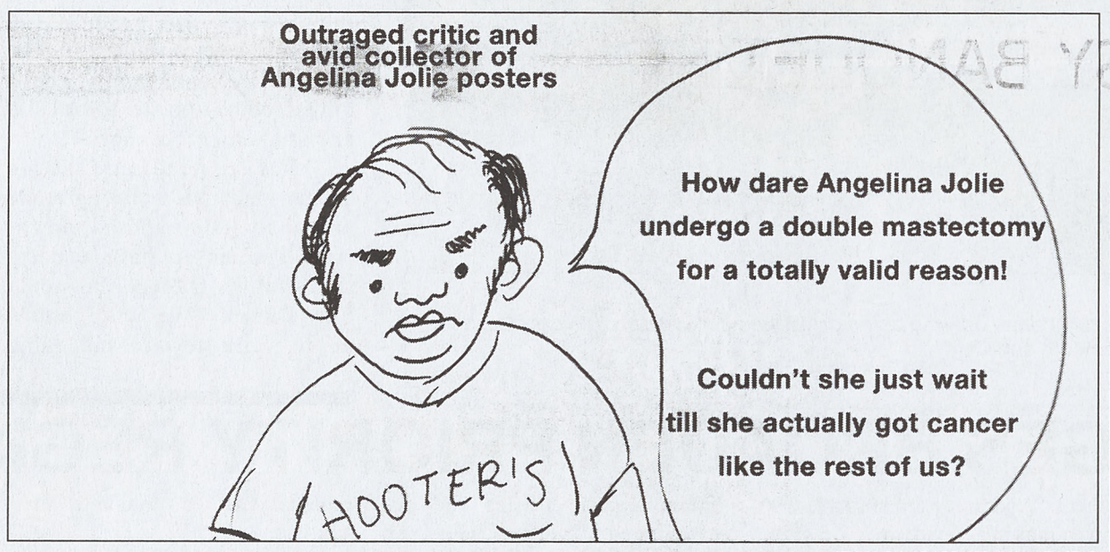
- ALBERT SARIAN
SOCIOLOGY



"I feel kinda mad. I don t think you should have to pay for graduation."

- ANNA FLORES
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

PHOTOS BY JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR



JENNA BUMGARDNER | VALLEY STAR

ANGELINA JOLIE'S DOUBLE MASTECTOMY SHOULD BE LAUDED, NOT QUESTIONED

The actress' preventative medical measure is unfairly being criticized by the media.

DEZIREE MILLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

"You have cancer." Words most hope never to hear. But what if measures could be taken so that the chances of hearing these words could be lowered and chances of a long, healthy life raised?

Actress Angelina Jolie took matters into her own hands after finding out that she carries BRCA1, the gene that largely increases a woman's chances of getting breast or ovarian cancer. She had a preventive double mastectomy because her risk of developing breast cancer was much higher than her risk of getting ovarian cancer.

In a New York Times Op-Ed published last week, Jolie revealed she began the procedure in February of this year. The decision in such a hyper-sexualized and superficial culture could not have been an easy one—especially given her profession and sex symbol status within it.

While she kept private during her procedures, Jolie explained she decided to come out about her experience to help others, a brave move for anyone but especially a celebrity known for her beauty. The actress is aware of this and acknowledges this in her piece.

> **"While she did not have cancer, her chances of devloping it were at 87 percent before the procedure and dropped to only 5 percent."**

"I do not feel any less of a woman," said Jolie. "I feel empowered that I made a strong choice that in no way diminishes my femininity."

Some of the media has lashed out at the actress, saying that she should have mentioned that this gene is rare. Some raised concerns that other women who may not need it might seek a mastectomy as well. But Jolie does not advocate for the same choice she made—instead, she encourages women to seek out their own medical advice, especially if they have a family history and make their own informed decisions.

She also hopes to raise awareness to the injustice lower-class women face who cannot afford the gene testing, which costs $3,000.

The backlash Jolie is receiving seems to be the result of a double standard. Cyclist Lance Armstrong had his cancerous testicle removed without any of the negative comments and speculation Jolie has faced. While she did not yet have cancer, her chances of developing it were at 87 percent before the procedure and dropped to only 5 percent. If one can reduce their chance of cancer by more than 80 percent, there is nothing wrong with them doing so.

The media seemed to have glossed over these points and should be ashamed for attacking someone who made such a courageous choice and wrote about it with only honorable intentions.

GRINGRICH VERSUS CELL PHONES

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

Newt Gingrich wants to change the name of cell phones, once again proving that he is an idiot.

In a desperate attempt to stay relevant, the former speaker of the house has been relegated to Internet publicity stunts talking about possibly the most asinine and trivial subject ever: renaming cell phones.

In a recent YouTube video and post on gingrichproductions.com, Gingrich pleads his case—effective only in reassuring the world that Americans made the right choice when they did not elect him. He joins a long list of publicity hounds, falling from being the third-most powerful man in the country to the level of Jerry Springer or Kim Kardashian.

The post begins with "We're puzzled," and he's right: we are. Instead of talking about important subjects like the Pakistani elections, immigration reform or national security, he is talking about cell phones. It is a wonder how he ever became speaker of the house.

On the site, he argues: "In fact, what you still call your 'cell phone' is not primarily a phone at all. Today's cell phones have roughly the same computing power as a 2003 laptop." Gringrich continued, "'Phone' that were completely impossible using even the best laptops 10 years ago."

Nobody cares. Besides, there is a name for it: Smartphone. It is still sometimes referred to as a cell phone because its primary use is to makes phone calls, and that is done through a cellular network. As a person seen as a leader of a political ideal, he has the responsibility not to look like an idiot and disrepute his stature. Ask your followers for ideas about fixing the budget or ways to create jobs, not about renaming cell phones.

SOME COUNTRIES BEYOND U.S. ASSISSTANCE

Afghanistan is unsavable, history has proven time and time again.

WALEED RAHMAN
STAFF WRITER

As the death toll rises in the never-ending war, the United States must face facts: Afghanistan cannot be tamed. Throughout history, no one has ever been able to control the region; the Mongols, Sikhs, Persians, Mughals, British, Soviets and Greeks have all tried and failed.

Alexander the Great tried and wrote back to his mother, "I am involved in the land of a Leonine (lion-like) and brave people, where every foot of the ground is like a wall of steel, confronting my soldiers. You have brought only one son into the world, but everyone in this land can be called an Alexander."

If Alexander the Great—the most lauded conqueror in history—could not tame them, so how can America expect to do so? Afghanistan is not conquerable; no matter how many drone strikes, the Afghan people will persevere.

We have faced this before. It is déjà vu.

Most of our leaders fought a similar enemy in the Vietcong whom, instead of drone bombing, we napalmed, scorched their villages, drove them underground, and still could not beat them. Welcome to the Twilight Zone, welcome to Vietnam 2.0. The only way to end terrorism is through education. The smarter the person is, the less likely it is that they will be brainwashed into being a terrorist.

Afghanistan has been in shambles for 40 some years. Misfortune is all they know. The country is the home of the Pathans, the most dangerous race of people on earth, proud as a peacock, and deadly as any predator found in nature.

The war-loving Pathans were the reason that the British army stopped wearing red coats. The constant wars have limited their education exclusively to scripture, which Al-qaeda and the Taliban have twisted to manipulate them into a phony jihad that no educated Muslim can condone or comprehend.

> **"Afghanistan has been in shambles for 40 some years. Misfortune is all they know."**

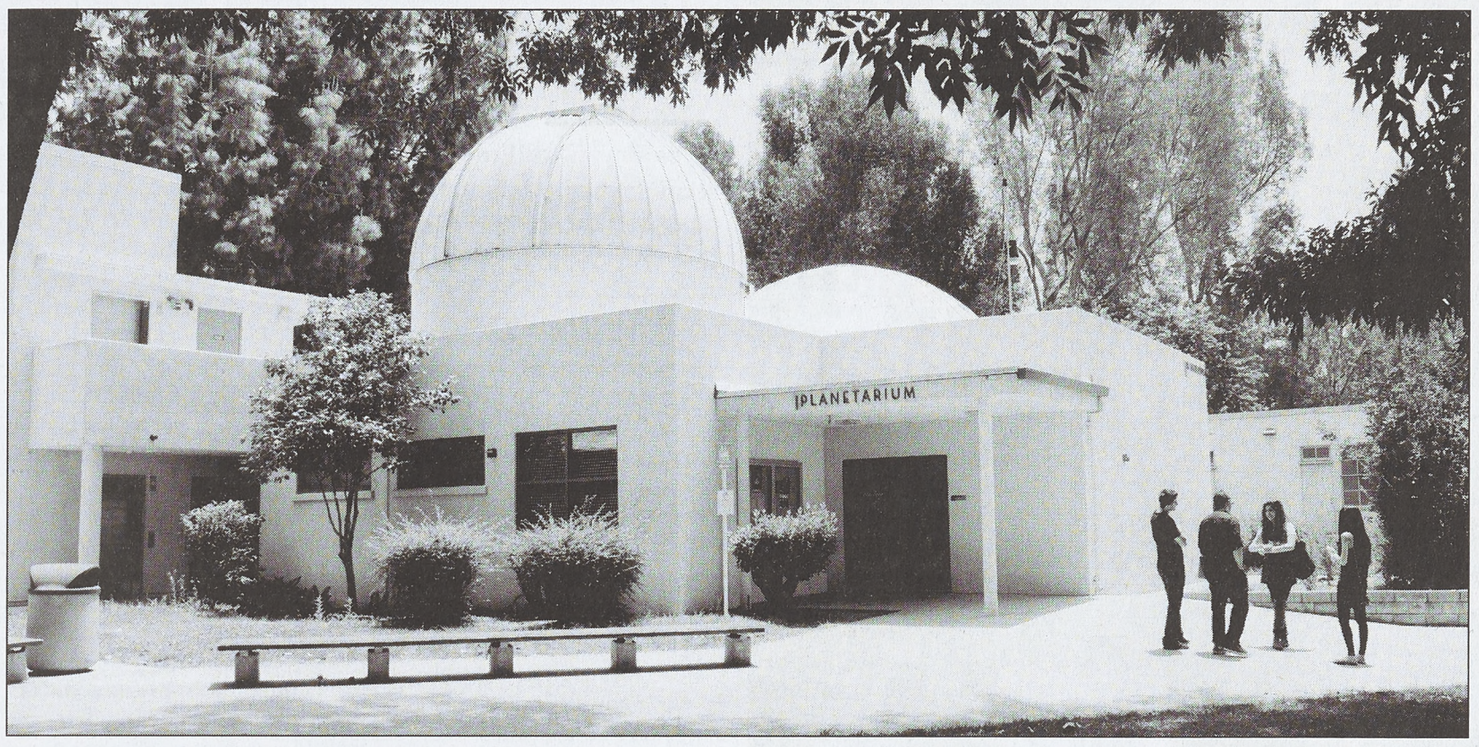
For this war to stop and be a success for America, every man, woman, and child in that country must get an education outside of the Quran. That is why extremists target schools: they do not want people to be educated, especially women who can bring what they have learned home and spread it to their children.

Knowledge is power, and those who control it, rule. So instead of continuing this costly war, America should change its approach and, as cliché as it is, "drop books, not bombs."

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to: **editor@lavalleystar.com** or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

ASTRONOMER COMBATS CAMPUS LIGHT POLLUTION



JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR

LOOKING AT THE STARS - Students gather outside Valley College's observatory, which is home to astronomy classes, shows and lectures.

A new parking structure gives relief to some, concern to others.

RACHEL PARSONS
STAFF WRITER

Each school day, the car-driving portion of nearly 18,000 Valley College students vie for one of about 4,400 parking spaces on campus. Many virtually salivate at the idea of the coming four-story parking structure, which will add around 1,000 spaces. It sounds like such glorious progress. But one person's progress is another person's pain.

"That parking structure concerns me," said David Falk, with a wrinkle in his brow. He is Valley's planetarium director and instructor of astronomy. His thoughts center on an unintended, though controllable effect of building: light pollution.

Artificial photopollution in urban environments is an outcome of the industrial age. To some extent, it comes with the territory when expanding, well, human territory. But for astronomers, more manmade light bouncing around at night—from say, a new, brightly lit parking structure—means less ability to view the heavens. And that is bad news for Valley's observatory.

Falk said since the structure will be the tallest building on campus, its lighting has the potential to "seriously hamper our view of the sky to the north" by creating a "light bubble."

He has been working with other school officials and construction project managers at building firm Yang Management for the past decade to ensure that the school's new works direct light where it should be. That is, not escaping into the night sky where it makes observing stars and planets harder and the school less safe. In November 2011, Valley released the Campus-wide Exterior Lighting Master Plan that lays out guidelines for new fixtures all over the grounds.

It addresses adequate illumination for safety, but limits overlighting, which is not cost-effective. Falk also recommended the use of full-cutoff fixtures that use shields to direct light downward, such as those in parking Lot A. Yang Management also lowered the height of the poles there at the request of Falk to minimize the impact on the observatory.

Old, inefficient fixtures such as those on tall poles in parking lots cause light trespass, where light spills into areas it isn't wanted such as a neighbor's windows, and uplighting. It is the uplighting that causes most of the luminous pollution on campus. Lights that have no shields to direct the light to the ground not only waste energy, but also can be dangerous.

"People should realize that overlighting or using unshielded light fixtures … can 'blind' people of the ability to discern objects nearby," Falk said of the glare that older lights produce. This is a personal safety concern for students at night.

The problem with the parking structure, according to Director of College Facilities Tom Lopez, is there are fewer light regulations on the books for buildings of its type. Lopez attended one of Falk's classes and saw for himself the effect that campus illumination has on sky visibility.

"I could see the impact," he said. "And with that garage [coming], the way they're lighting it, they're putting out a lot more light because they have fewer standards. So we are reviewing that because that's not acceptable." He explained that adhering to stricter regulations would create more efficient light, cost the college less and protect Valley's view of the stars.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

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ASSOCIATED STUDENT UNION PREPARES FOR FANTASY BANQUET

The ASU-sponsored banquet is one Valley event that is sure to leave a lasting impression on every attendee.

JOSH ESQUIVEL
STAFF WRITER

In celebration of yet another successful semester goneby, Valley's ASU is sponsoring a fantasy-themed banquet which will be held on May 24 in Monarch Hall.

"The ASU Banquet is an LAVC tradition," said public relations commissioner-elect, Kailie Katz. "It is a chance for the ASU to say goodbye to the Executive Council commissioners and celebrate the swearing in of the new board."

There are two requirements that must be met before being granted admission into the banquet. The first is the payment of the $10 ASO fee – which can be paid in the campus' business office. When students pay the fee they are given a sticker to place on their LAVC identification card.

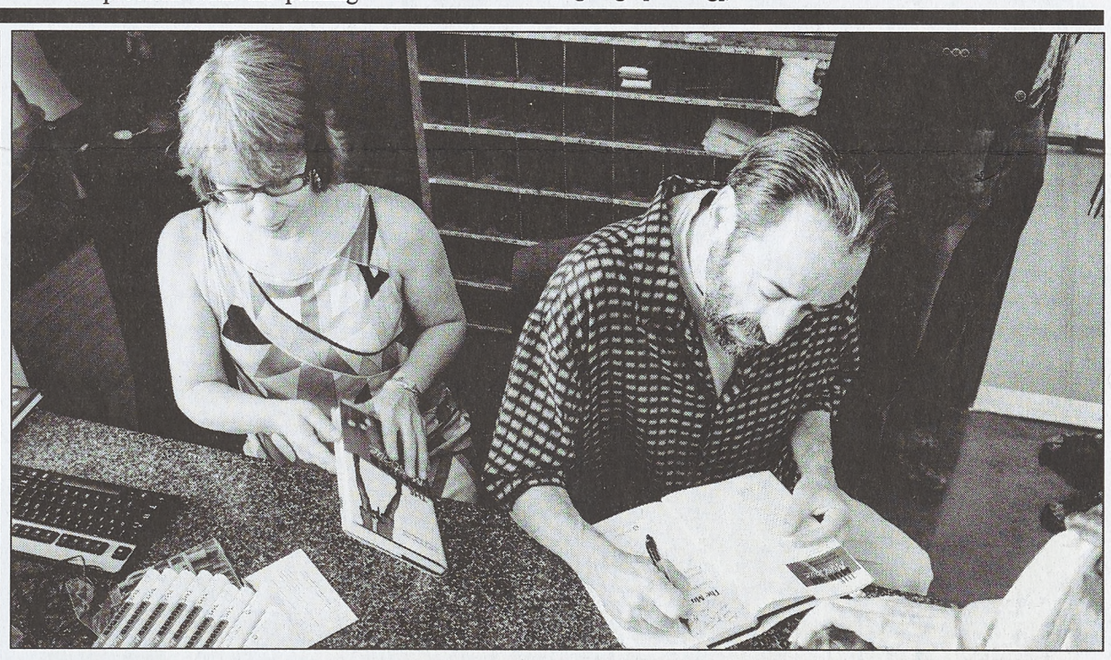
In addition to admittance to the banquet, benefits of paying the ASO fee include: the sanctions to create a student club, the ability to serve on the ASU Executive Council should one meet the criteria, and access to the student-centered events, activities and programs the ASU provides throughout the year.

The second directive is to attend the banquet in semi-formal attire – although costumes are encouraged as the banquet is fantasy-themed and a costume contest will be held. ASU Vice-President-elect, Randdi Misrahi, estimates about 100 people are expected to attend the event.

Starving college students may be wondering about food. The banquet's planning committee has chosen to provide a wide variety of vegetarian, non-dairy and gluten-free food plates all of which are free of charge.

"This year's banquet will be more fun than ever," said Katz, "There will be awards, games, and amazing food. Come ready to dance, eat, and have fun," added Katz.

So, even if balrogs, elves, enchanted forests, unicorns, and monkeys with wings aren't one's idea of fun, rest assured that attending this year's ASU banquet will be a Friday night well spent. For more information on the ASU visit their website at www.lavc.edu/ASU/.



JOHN STRUBE | VALLEY STAR

CONNECTING WITH FANS- Authors Laurie Nalepa and Richard Pfefferman signing copies of their book "The Murder Mystique: Female Killers and Popular Culture" at the LAVC Historical Museum on Tuesday May 14, 2013

NEW BOOK BY VALLEY DEANS EXPLORE MEDIA'S DEPICTION OF FEMALE SERIAL KILLERS

Authors donate a portion of proceeds to scholarships for Valley students.

JHANELLE RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

A woman in a red dress and black pumps gripping a pistol covers the non-fiction book "The Murder Mystique: Female Killers In Popular Culture."

Valley College's Laurie Nalepa and Richard Pfefferman spent four years researching and writing the book that was published in February. The two recently held a book signing at the Valley Historical Museum.

Nalepa, dean of vocational education, and Pfeffernam, former dean of workforce development, signed copies of the book for some of the 30 who attended.

The book explores the psychology of female murderers and what motivates them to kill. The authors delve into how such murderers are viewed in society.

"I think three things tend to happen," Nalepa said. "They either portray you as a victim, they either portray you as a vixen, meaning you're some sex pot and your like that femme fatalle character and you're killing the man, or they portray you as just a villain … I think that circumstances are much more complex but the media tends to simplify everything."

The five-chapter text studies two women from different eras, between the 1950s and 2010. During the writing process, the authors confirmed there was a "division of labor." Nalepa was the criminologist and tells her readers what drove these particular women to kill.

Pfefferman specialized in the pop culture aspect of the book, and said the media shapes the audiences perception of events.

Pfefferman pointed to a music video, "Telephone," that features Lady Gaga and Beyonce. The R&B singer bails her friend, Gaga, out of jail after she had murdered her boyfriend by poising his drink. Pfefferman said the video or mini movie "romanticizes murder" with its provocative costumes, dancing and singing.

"Someone who likes Beyonce and Lady Gaga, especially a young girl, may look at that video and say, 'Wow murder is really cool,'" Pfefferman said. Those types of images were not around in the 1950s, "that's how pop culture then shapes how we ultimately see historical acts that come to play within the context of the culture."

The Valley authors, who have been friends for 12 years, will donate some of the proceeds to the Valley College Foundation, which awards scholarships to students.

Readers can find the text at the college library or purchase it online for around $35. Visit http://www.rpfefferman.com/themurdermystique

Arantxa Rodriguez, cinema and media arts instructor. attended the book signing and said it's a good step in understanding women in the media.

I think the novel is anticipating the way women are portrayed in the media," said Rodriguez. "It's important because it opens a discussion about how everyone is represented. Hopefully Ms. Nalepa will help us understand how we relate to each other."

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FEELING THE BURN - Valley College football players stretching before spring practice at Monarch Stadium.

ERIKA SUPLECOVA | VALLEY STAR

MONARCHS PREPARE FOR FALL SEASON

The Valley College football team is preping themselves for the upcoming season.

GEORGE BELON
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

A new season is here for Monarchs football. It may not be time to hit the stadium and watch the games, but Valley College's football team is already hard at work to make sure that last year's 2-8 season does not repeat this year.

Last year, head coach Larry Kerr took over the team a few weeks before the start of the season. Kerr had little time to prepare for 2012-2013 season, "I didn't know the players, the staff…anybody," Kerr said

The re-construction era is already in full motion. Kerr set up three eight-week camps: the winter camp, the spring camp and the summer camp. The Monarchs have completed two camps and the summer camp is right around the corner.

"Morale [for the new season] is high in the team and I am really encouraged by the players commitments," Kerr said.

Sophomore defensive end Cory Ware and freshman defensive lineman Robert Martinez said the camps have helped the team grow together.

"The team chemistry has improved because of the eight week camps…the team believes in Coach Kerr and the rest of the coaching staff," Ware said.

The team might enjoy better chemistry from last year, but it will build its identity around defense "We are an aggressive defensive team, with an attacking 4-3 defense," Kerr said.

Kerr believes this up field attacking defense can be executed well with players like Ware, sophomore defensive back Jeremi Ross, sophomore defensive lineman Lester Cienfuegos and many others.

The offensive side of the ball will see changes with new coordinator Cesar Sandoval. According to the coaches, the Monarchs have a good mix of new and returning players at the skill positions such as quarterback and running back. The offensive line is also looking to improve with sophomores Mario Martinez and Dylan Padilla.

The Monarchs have another camp and hours more of practice before their home opener against Southwestern Jaguars Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

ANALYZE THIS

KOBE COMES IN SECOND

Kobe Bryant still comes second when talking about who the best to player in the NBA history.

ROMEO GONZALEZ

Comparing Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan is like comparing Pepsi to Coca-Cola: everyone likes both, but one will always be better than the other.

There is no question that Jordan will forever be the best to play the game, but Bryant comes a close second. The numbers say it, the analysts say it and now Phil Jackson has said it.

"Michael was more charismatic and gregarious than Kobe. He loved hanging out with his teammates and security guards, playing cards, smoking cigars, and joking around," Jackson said in his new book, "Eleven Rings: The Soul of Success."

Who could forget all the success Bryant has had in his career: scoring 81 points against Toronto, and then scoring 62 points against Dallas in three quarters.

There is no question about it; every night Bryant puts on that Lakers uniform, he goes to work and makes sure he gives fans the show they came to see.

But let's remember that every fade away, every high-flying retro dunk, every game-winning shot that Bryant has made, Jordan did it first, and made it look a lot better.

Jordan has always been a better player than Bryant, shooting a close 50 percent through out his career while Bryant has been has been at 45 percent.

"Kobe has learned a lot from studying Michael's tricks, and we often used him as our secret weapon on defense when we needed to turn the direction of a game," Jackson said in his book. "In general, Kobe tends to rely more heavily on his flexibility and craftiness, but he takes a lot of gambles on defense and sometimes pays the price."

No question, Bryant has made his fair share of appearances on the NBA's All-Defensive team, but Jordan has always been superior to Bryant in that category, too.

Jordan was a more intimidating, tougher defender who could break through almost any screen and almost shut down any player with his intense style of play.

When it comes to championships, Jordan takes the lead there, too, having won six titles compared to Bryant's five. The ironic part being they both made it to the NBA finals under the leadership of Jackson.

Two players whose competitive drive and will to win has pushed them beyond their limits to go down in history as the best to ever play the game.

Bryant will always be second to Jordan, but for those of us who grew up watching Bryant, let's remember that without 23, there would be no 24.

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